

HQT Licensure & Content Knowledge Requirements for Special Educators

This chart describes the HQT licensure and content knowledge requirements for special educators who are performing primary instruction or team teaching roles in one or more of the core academic content areas of English language arts/reading, math, science, and social studies¹ for one or more students. (See the document *Definitions of Special Education Instructional Arrangements and their Implications for Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) Requirements* for the definitions of "primary instruction" and "team teaching." This document is available online at education.vermont.gov/new/html/licensing/hqt.html.) Classroom teachers, Title I reading and Title I math teachers, and alternative program educators should use the HQT licensure and content knowledge requirements chart appropriate to their assignment (see the "Appropriate HQT Requirements for Assignment" table at the end of this document).

To be HQT for his/her assignment, a special educator must carry an endorsement appropriate to the assignment AND must meet the HQT content knowledge requirements for the **highest present level of performance** of the students taught by the educator (which is not necessarily the students' actual grade levels). The appropriate endorsement for any special education assignment is a special education endorsement (i.e., Special Educator, Consulting Teacher, Intensive Special Education Teacher, Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Teacher of the Blind and Visually Impaired, Educational SLP, Director of Special Education, Career and Technical Special Needs Teacher). In addition, **the instructional levels of the endorsement used must encompass the actual grade(s) taught** (e.g., grades K – 8, grades K – age 21, grade 7 – age 21) in order to be appropriate for the assignment.

All special educators providing primary instruction in a core academic content area must meet the content knowledge requirements listed in the chart below.

When counting credits, both college coursework and professional development in the core academic content areas may be counted toward HQT requirements. For a college course to be counted, a grade of "C-" or higher must be earned. 15 hours of acceptable core academic content area professional development is considered to be the equivalent of one credit. All credits or equivalent credits in the content areas, as well as all credits or equivalent credits in both pedagogy in the content areas and disabilities in the content areas, may be counted toward the credit requirements for special educators.

More information about HQT and Vermont's Praxis II testing requirements is available online at education.vermont.gov under Educator Licensing. For questions regarding HQT, contact the Office of Professional Standards at (802) 828-1455 or DOE-HQT@education.state.vt.us.

¹ "Social Studies," as used with federal HQT requirements, is a term encompassing the areas of history, geography, civics and government, and economics.

HQT LICENSURE & CONTENT KNOWLEDGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS	
Core Content Area and <u>Students' Highest Present Level of Performance</u>	HQT Content Knowledge Requirements
Pre-Kindergarten	There are no HQT content knowledge requirements to meet if a student's present level of performance is below the kindergarten level. However, to comply with state licensing regulations, the endorsement should match the assignment and cover the instructional levels of the assignment.
Elementary (K-6) (English language arts, math, science, or social studies)	Praxis II Elementary Education exam (test code 0014), OR A minimum of 6 credits in English language arts and 6 credits in math (includes content and pedagogy/disabilities in the content)
Middle Grades English language arts/reading (7-9)	Praxis II Middle Grades English exam (test code 0049), OR Praxis II English exam (test code 0041 or 0042), OR A minimum of 12 credits in English language arts/reading (includes content and pedagogy/disabilities in the content)
Middle Grades Math (7-9)	Praxis II Middle Grades Mathematics exam (test code 0069), OR Praxis II Mathematics exam (test code 0061 or 0063), OR A minimum of 12 credits in mathematics (includes content and pedagogy/disabilities in the content)
Middle Grades Science (7-9)	Praxis II Middle Grades Science exam (test code 0439), OR Praxis II General Science exam (test code 0435 or 0433), OR A minimum of 12 credits in the sciences from among biology, chemistry, physics, and/or earth/atmospheric/environmental sciences (includes content and pedagogy/disabilities in the content)
Middle Grades Social Studies (7-9)	Praxis II Middle Grades Social Studies exam (test code 0089), OR Praxis II Social Studies exam (test code 0081 or 0083), OR A minimum of 12 credits in social studies from among history, geography, economics, and/or civics (includes content and pedagogy/disabilities in the content)
Secondary English language arts/reading (10-12)	Praxis II English exam (test code 0041 or 0042), OR A minimum of 15 credits in English language arts/reading (includes content and pedagogy/disabilities in the content)
Secondary Math (10-12)	Praxis II Mathematics exam (test code 0061 or 0063), OR A minimum of 15 credits in mathematics (includes content and pedagogy/disabilities in the content)

Core Content Area and <u>Students' Highest Present Level of Performance</u>	HQT Content Knowledge Requirements
Secondary Science (10-12)	Praxis II General Science exam (test code 0435 or 0433), OR Praxis II exam in a science sub-discipline (biology, chemistry, physics, or earth science), OR A minimum of 15 credits in science from among biology, chemistry, physics, and earth science (includes content and pedagogy/disabilities in the content)
Secondary Social Studies (10-12)	Praxis II Social Studies exam (test code 0081 or 0083), OR A minimum of 15 credits in social studies from among history, geography, economics, and civics (includes content and pedagogy/disabilities in the content)

TABLE 1
APPROPRIATE HQT REQUIREMENTS FOR ASSIGNMENT

Use the HQT licensure and content knowledge requirements chart that most closely corresponds to the teaching assignment(s). All HQT licensure and content knowledge requirements charts are available online at education.vermont.gov under Educator Licensing.

Type of Teaching Assignment	Corresponding HQT Requirements Chart
Classroom	<i>HQT Licensure & Content Knowledge Requirements for <u>Classroom Teachers</u></i>
Special Education (primary instruction only)	<i>HQT Licensure & Content Knowledge Requirements for <u>Special Educators</u></i>
Alternative Program (core area instruction only)	<i>HQT Licensure & Content Knowledge Requirements for <u>Alternative Program Teachers</u></i>
Title I Reading and Math Teachers	<i>HQT Licensure & Content Knowledge Requirements for <u>Title I Teachers of Reading and Math</u></i>